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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,302	01/19/2001	Tadao Tsuchimura	1046.1235/JDH	6751
21171	7590	12/16/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, LE V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,302

Applicant(s)

TSUCHIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 19-21, 24-26, 28-31, 37-39, 42-44 and 46-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13, 28-31 and 46-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-8, 19-21, 24-26, 37-39 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 9/28/05.
2. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 19-21, 24-26, 28-31, 37-39, 42-44 and 46-49 are pending in this application; claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 27, 30, 32, 33, 37, 45, 46, 48 and 50-54 are independent claims; and claims 10-13, 28-31 and 46-49 are allowed. Claims 4, 5, 9, 14-18, 22, 23, 27, 32-36, 40, 41, 45 and 50-54 have been cancelled; and, claims 1, 10, 12, 19, 24, 28, 30, 37, 42, 46 and 48 have been amended.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 6-8, 24 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mills et al. ("Mills").

As per claim 6, Mills teaches an information display system comprising a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a), an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *user selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse*), an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information and a control unit displaying the acquired information in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5) wherein the display unit displays

identifying information for identifying the display area, the control unit when the identifying information corresponding to the display area is specified through the operation unit, enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information and displays only the display area and deletes other display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail to replace/delete any image previously displayed in the display area*).

As per claim 7, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information when the operation unit detects an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, the display area corresponding to the identifying information is enlarged (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 8, Mills teaches an information display system wherein when the operation unit detects an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Claims 24 and 42 are individually similar in scope to claim 6 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Duperrouzel et al. ("Duperrouzel").

As per claim 1, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a);

an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *user selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse*);

an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information; and a control unit having the acquired information displayed in the corresponding display area (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5);

wherein when a first item of information displayed in a first display area is related to a second item of information, and when given an indication of displaying the second item of information, the second item of information is displayed in a second display area while keeping a display of the first item of information in the first display area (fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25);

wherein the indication of displaying the second item of information is given by operating on the information displayed in the first display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges a second item of information in a second display area corresponding to a first*

item of information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail).

Although Mills teaches dragging the SDF 20 of fig. 2 in a first display area into a second display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5), Mills does not explicitly disclose dragging a link information indicated by a specified character key word displayed in a first display area into a second display area. Duperrouzel teaches dragging a link information indicated by a specified character key work displayed in a first display area into a second display area (col. 11, lines 25-36). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Duperrouzel with the method of Mills in order to provide users with a powerful navigation tool.

As per claim 2, the modified Mills teaches an information display system wherein the acquiring unit includes a communication unit and acquires the information by accessing a network (Duperrouzel: fig. 1; col. 11, lines 25-36).

As per claim 3, the modified Mills teaches an information display system comprising a history storing module storing display histories of items of information displayed wherein the items of information stored as the display histories are displayed in a predetermined order in the respective display areas (Mills: fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

6. Claims 19-21, 25, 26, 37-39, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Duperrouzel et al. ("Duperrouzel").

As per claim 19, Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising forming a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a; e.g. elements 38, 20), specifying information to be displayed in the display area and obtaining a specified item of information and displaying the obtained information in the display area corresponding thereto (col. 3, line 41 through col. 4, line 15; col. 4, line 29 through col. 5, line 60; col. 6, lines 3-58) and displaying a second item of information in a second display area while keeping the display of a first item of information in a first display area when the first item of information displayed in a first display area is related to a second item of information and when given an indication of displaying the second item of information wherein the indication of displaying the second item of information is given by operating on the information displayed in the first display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges a second item of information in a second display area corresponding to a first item of information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail*).

Although Mills teaches dragging the SDF 20 of fig. 2 in a first display area into a second display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5), Mills does not explicitly disclose dragging a link information indicated by a specified character key word displayed in a first display area into a second display area. Duperrouzel teaches dragging a link information indicated by a specified character key work displayed in a first display area into a second display area (col. 11, lines 25-36). It would have been

obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Duperrouzel with the method of Mills in order to provide users with a powerful navigation tool.

As per claims 20 and 38, the modified Mills teaches a readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer and an information display method comprising obtaining the information by accessing a network (Duperrouzel: fig. 1; col. 11, lines 25-36).

As per claims 21 and 39, the modified Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps and an information display system comprising a history storing module storing display histories of items of information displayed wherein the items of information stored as the display histories are displayed in a predetermined order in the respective display areas (Mills: fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

As per claim 25, the modified Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine, the method steps comprising displaying the identifying information within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 26, the modified Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps wherein when detecting an indication operation with respect to

the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Claim 37 is similar in scope to claim 19 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 43, the modified Mills teaches an information display method comprising displaying the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 44, the modified Mills teaches an information display method wherein when detecting an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 6-8, 19-21, 24-26, 37-39 and 42-44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, except for the following:

Applicant argued the following:

In regards to claims 6, 24 and 42, deleting the other display areas would make no sense in the context of Mills since the SDF is dragged into or out of video window 20 as needed for editing purposes

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Mills teaches an information display system comprising a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a) wherein a control unit enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information and displays only the single display area and delete other display area upon selection (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail, thereby, replacing/deleting any image previously displayed in the display area*). Therefore, the limitations of the claim language is met by the teachings of Mills.

Inquires

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LVN
Patent Examiner
December 9, 2005

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